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Sent: Monday, November 26, 2001 12:57 PM
To: orovillep2100@water.ca.gov
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Subject: Oroville Facilities Relicensing -- Paleontological Resources Need to be Assessed

Monday 26 November 2001

Mr. Len Marino,

The purpose of this e-mail message is to respond to the request to identify the scope of important environmental resources affected by the Oroville Facilities. I have examined the Draft NEPA Scoping Document 1 and CEQA Notice of Preparation and was surprised to see that **Paleontological Resources** (fossils -- the remains of prehistoric plants and animals) are not included as an issue to be addressed in the environmental assessment. Both NEPA and CEQA require that paleontological resources be considered in environmental impact assessments/statements/reports. In my professional opinion, in order to conduct an accurate and thorough analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Oroville facilities, impacts on *paleontological resources need to be considered* in any environmental assessments required by the relicensing. I am already aware of several significant paleontological resource sites on properties included within the Oroville Project Boundary.

Like for Cultural Resources Issues, the Oroville Facilities Relicensing environmental assessment should include, but not be limited to, the following:

PR1: Determine the nature, distribution, and value of paleontological resources (fossils) within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

PR2: Evaluate the need and methods to provide protection of paleontological resources within the APE.

PR3: Determine the effects of existing and future project facilities, operations, and maintenance on paleontological resources with the APE.

PR4: Provide for the interpretation of paleontological resources and make available paleontological resources data relative to the Oroville project area.

Additional paleontological resource issues may need to be addressed once an initial survey of paleontological resources within the APE has been completed.

As a professional paleontologist who specializes in surveying and assessing the potential impacts of large construction projects (highways, pipelines, landfills, power plants, etc.) on paleontological resources, I would be very interested in working with you on paleontological resource issues related to the Oroville Facilities Relicensing.

Thank you for considering my input into the scoping process.

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